



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Question on Children Born in the Past 12 Months (P-18)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT CHILDREN BORN IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) uses these data to determine the need for postpartum care.
- HHS also uses these data to investigate questions of infant mortality, birth rate, and all other matters related to child welfare.
- Manufacturers of baby products such as baby food, clothes, diapers and toys use these data to develop and market their product lines.
- Private organizations use these data to forecast needs for children such as daycare centers and hospitals.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT CHILDREN BORN IN PAST 12 MONTHS

- Child Welfare Act
- Indian Health Care Improvement Act
- Public Health Service Act

QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

18

Has this person given birth to any children in the past 12 months?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

[<www.census.gov/acs/www>](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE CHILDREN BORN IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS QUESTION

- A question on children *ever born* appeared on the 1990 census questionnaire.
- The children born in the past 12 months question was not asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Information on children born in the past 12 months provides a more current assessment of local area fertility patterns than previous fertility questions.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

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<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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